



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DON VRUWINK

43rd DISTRICT

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CONTACT:
Rep. Don Vruwink (608) 266-3790

Rep. Vruwink: No Need to Waste Taxpayer Dollars in Drawn-Out Redistricting Fights

Rep. Don Vruwink (D-Milton), is the lead Assembly author of legislation to remove redistricting from partisan politics. He issued the following statement regarding contracts that legislative leadership signed with two law firms to fight an appeals court decision relating to redistricting:

“The Legislature spent \$2.1 million on lawyers to draw legislative districts that favored the majority party and now legislative leadership wants to spend unlimited tax dollars at \$300 per hour defending those gerrymandered maps.

“There is a way to avoid these costly attorney fees. And that is to put the responsibility for redistricting in the hands of a non-partisan body like the Legislative Reference Bureau. That is what Assembly Bill 44 and Senate Bill 13 do. We can re-draw legislative and congressional districts every 10 years without secrecy, without scheming for electoral advantage, and without spending millions of taxpayers’ hard-earned money.

“Citizens across Wisconsin want Democrats and Republicans to work for the good of the people and not constantly be maneuvering to gain more seats for their party. The current make-up of the Legislature, with Republicans outnumbering Democrats 64-35 in the Assembly and 20-13 in the Senate, is not reflective of the Wisconsin population.

“When legislative districts are drawn to tilt unnaturally in favor of one party or the other, the favored party can become entrenched and voters don’t have a true choice. Some districts will naturally favor one party over the other. But legislative districts that are more evenly split will require candidates to shift closer to the center in their political philosophy. I believe this will lead to more collaboration and bipartisanship from our legislators.

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